

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2298

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USUN NEW YORK 5050

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ECON, UR, US, ICAO, IMCO, AGRG, PINT

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATE FOR WORLD

TOURISM ORGANIZATION POSITION

REF: STATE 080133

1. EMBOFFS WERE CALLED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 8 TO MEET WITH DIMITRIY Y. SOKOLOV, FIRST SECRETARY AND BORIS S. AVRAMENKO, THIRD SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO SOKOLOV, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION WILL HOLD SECOND SESSION APRIL 26-30 IN ACAPULCO. THIS ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED LAST MAY AND ITS HEADQUARTERS ARE IN MADRID. POSITIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN CREATED WITH FORMER HELD BY FRENCH AND PRIME CANDIDATE FOR LATTER BEING MR. JAVATT, FNU, OF INDIA.

2. SOKOLOV STATED THAT PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED DURING UPCOMING MEETING TO CREATE POST OF SECOND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. IN EVENT OF POSITIVE DECISION, USSR DELEGATION WILL SUBMIT NAME OF VIKTOR M. LESIOVSKIY AS CANDIDATE FOR POSITION. LESIOVSKIY HOLDS RANK OF COUNSELOR-MINISTER, WHICH IS ONE STEP BELOW FULL AMBASSADOR, AND WORKED FOR MANY YEARS, UNTIL 1973, AS PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO UN SYG'S. HE NOW IS WORKING

IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT OF MFA. SOKOLOV EMPHASIZED THAT LESIOVSKIY IS VERY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION AND THAT HE IS "WELL KNOWN" TO U.S. AND UN OFFICIALS. HE ENDED BY SAYING USSR WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF U.S. DELEGATION WOULD SUPPORT CREATION OF NEW POST AND ALSO ELECTION OF SOVIET NOMINEE.

3. EMBOFFS PROMISED TO TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON. EMBOFFS ALSO USED OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THAT USG HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF CAPTAIN KOSTYLEV AS SECRETARY OF MSC (IMCO) AND THAT WE STRONGLY HOPED USSR WOULD SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF MSR. DILLON AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO, PER REFTEL.

4. COMMENT: LESIOVSKIY IS OF COURSE WELL KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES. WHILE HE IS CURRENTLY ONE OF SEVERAL COUNSELORS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT OF MFA, HE HAS TAKEN ACTIVE PART IN ESCORTING VARIOUS US VIP'S AROUND SOVIET UNION (INCLUDING CODEL HUMPHREY-SCOTT IN MID-1974.) HIS CANDIDACY FOR UNDEMANDING TOURISM POST IN MADRID AT THIS POINT DESERVES CAREFUL SCRUTINY.

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